WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for treatment of a varicose vein of a subject comprising:

(a) means for securing said device to the leg of a subject superficial to said vein to be treated; and

(b) means for applying a selected amount of pressure to the skin superficial to said vein to be treated in a manner such that blood-flow toward the heart is permitted during peripheral venous pumping but wherein backflow away from the heart as a result of gravity is substantially reduced.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising a base for supporting the means for applying pressure which base is attached to said securing means and is capable of traversing the skin superficial to said vein to be treated in a manner in which substantial downward pressure is not applied to the skin superficial to said vein to be treated wherein said means for applying pressure is attached to said base.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein said means for applying pressure is a cantilever element having a tip which displaces the proximal wall of the vein toward the distal wall to form a junction closing said vein.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein said cantilever element is biased by a separate spring.

5. The device of claim 3 wherein said cantilever element is integral with a spring.

6. The device of claim 4 wherein said cantilever element extends from said base in a direction toward the heart and exerts pressure on said vein at an angle such that venous pressure on the side of said junction away from the heart exerts greater effective force displacing said cantilever element than does venous pressure on the side of the junction nearer the heart.

7. The device of claim 3 wherein said cantilever element is a thin arcuate material.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein said cantilever element is convex in the direction toward the vein to be treated.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein said means for applying pressure is in the form of a wedge.

10. The device of claim 9 which further comprises a semirigid base attached to said securing means which traverses the skin superficial to the vein to be treated.

11. The device of claim 9 wherein the apex of said wedge displaces the proximal wall of the vein toward the distal wall to form a junction closing said vein and wherein the wall of the wedge on the side of the apex away from the heart is disposed at an angle from the plane of the vein which is less than the angle from the plane of the vein of the wedge wall on the side of the apex toward the heart.

12. The device of claim 9 wherein said wedge is disposed between the base and the vein to be treated.

13. The device of claim 9 wherein the wedge wall on the side of the apex toward the heart is disposed at a right angle to plane of the vein.

14. The device of claim 9 wherein the wedge is formed of a resilient material.

15. The device of claim 1 wherein the means for applying pressure applies from about 0.05 to about 2 pounds of force to the skin.

16. The device of claim 15 wherein the means for applying pressure applies from about 0.2 to about 1 pound of force to the skin.

17. The device of claim 1 wherein said securing means comprises a carrier tape comprising a backing and a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive on one surface of said backing.

18. A method for treatment of a varicose vein comprising applying to the skin superficial to the vein to be treated a selected amount of pressure in a manner such that blood-flow toward the heart is permitted during peripheral venous pumping but wherein backflow away from the heart as a result of gravity is substantially reduced.

19. The method of claim 18 comprising the step of applying to the skin of the subject to be treated a device comprising: (a) means for securing said device to the leg of a subject superficial to said vein to be treated; and (b) means for applying a selected amount of pressure to the skin superficial to said vein to be treated in a manner such that blood-flow toward the heart is permitted during peripheral venous pumping but wherein backflow away from the heart as a result of gravity is not permitted; and applying sufficient pressure to the skin superficial to said vein to be treated in a manner such that

blood-flow toward the heart is permitted during peripheral venous pumping but wherein backflow away from the heart as a result of gravity is substantially reduced.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein said device further comprises a base attached to said securing means capable of traversing the skin superficial to said vein to be treated in a manner in which substantial downward pressure is not applied to the skin superficial to said vein to be treated.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein the device is applied superficial to the saphenous vein immediately upstream of the saphenous junction.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein the device is applied superficial to the saphenous vein immediately upstream of the popliteal junction.